

Message Text

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13

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 INSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4741

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

US MISSION UN NEW YORK 769

US MISSION GENEVA 311

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5640

DEPT FOR D/HA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: REGIONAL "HOLDING
CENTER" PROPOSAL

REF: (A) STATE 240076, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 5613, (C) KUALA LUMPUR 4888

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1. REF A REQUESTED POST COMMENTS ON PROBABLE HOST GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL CENTER TO HANDLE "BOAT CASE" WOULD SPEED DEPARTURE OF REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIAN SOIL, GOM ATTITUDE WOULD BE FAVORABLE. WE SEE NO RPT NO CIRCUMSTANCES HOWEVER IN WHICH GOM WOULD ALLOW SUCH A CENTER TO BE ESTABLISHED HERE. REF B PROVIDES SOME FLAVOR RE LOCAL RACIAL SENSITIVITIES AND THE RETURN RUN OF THE ONE BOAT MENTIONED THEREIN BACK TO VIETNAM TO PICK UP ADDITIONAL REFUGEES PROBABLY UPSET THE MALAYSIANS WHO WOULD NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN ANYTHING THAT SUGGESTS THEY ARE PROVIDING A BASE FOR EMIGRE ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE NEW VIETNAMESE REGIME. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, GOM IS ALSO VERY CONSCIOUSLY AVOIDING ACTIONS THAT MIGHT, IF PUBLICIZED, ENCOURAGE CONTINUED ARRIVALS OF REFUGEE BOATS. THE INCREASE IN REFUGEE ARRIVALS TO BE EXPECTED IF A MAJOR REFUGEE CENTER WAS KNOWN TO EXIST HERE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOM.

2. OUR GENERAL VIEWS ON REFUGEE CAMPS WERE CITED IN REF C; THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO AVOID INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CAMP SETTING. UNLESS A QUOTA SYSTEM IS ESTABLISHED AND AGREED TO BY PARTICIPATING NATIONS TO ACCEPT ALL REFUGEES, A RESIDUAL NUMBER WILL REMAIN. WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THEM? UNTIL THIS QUESTION IS RESOLVED COUNTRIES WILL BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE SUCH A CENTER.

3. IN OUR OPINION WE SHOULD GO BACK TO CONGRESS IN VIEW OF NEW CIRCUMSTANCES (I.E., CONTINUED BOAT ARRIVALS, HARDSHIPS THEY FACE, HARDLINE ATTITUDES BY REGIONAL NATIONS) TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE EPP IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER, SINCE THE P-7 PROGRAM DOES NOT, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, INCORPORATE A PREFERENCE SYSTEM FOR THOSE WHO HAVE STRONG TIES TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS WOULD PLACE US IN A BETTER BARGAINING POSITION TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO PLAY A ROLE. WE AGREE WITH MANILA 15104 THAT DESPITE OUR WISHES TO THE CONTRARY OTHER COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO VIEW US AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT, AND WE NEED TO KEEP THIS IN MIND.
UNDERHILL

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